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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Event provides access to latest technology for people who are blind or low-vision

TALLADEGA – People who are blind or visually impaired will be able to try out new technology at the Technology Symposium June 3 and 4 at the Alabama School for the Blind in Talladega.

The free event is sponsored by the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS), the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB), and the Alabama School for the Blind Alumni Association. It is organized by Debbie Culver, ADRS coordinator of Blind Services, who leads the steering committee of the symposium.

The purpose of the symposium is to update people who are blind or visually impaired on the latest technology that can make a difference in their lives.

“Technology has changed the lives of people with disabilities,” said Denise Holmes, ADRS rehabilitation specialist and member of the Technology Symposium Steering Committee. “It has opened up so many avenues for independent living. Because of technology, there aren’t many jobs a person who is blind can’t do.”

Many companies are keeping pace with the trend and will exhibit their new products at the two-day conference. The organizations include 20/20 Technology, American Foundation for the Blind, Emerald Coast Vision Aids, Eschenbach Optik of America Inc. , Gentry Assistive Technology, Humanware, and Optical South.

Along with the exhibits, there will be training opportunities on new technologies, including two pre-conference training sessions on June 2. One of the two will provide tips and tricks on Windows 7 for users who are blind or visually impaired; the other will teach them how to navigate the Internet. The topics are so popular that both classes are already full and a waiting list has been established.

The June 3 and 4 trainings are open to any attendees. Topics include “Low-Cost, No-Cost Assistive Software,” “Universal Design as it Relates to Assistive Technology,” and “Active Lifestyles and Accessible Exercise.”

The conference will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on June 3 and 9 a.m. to noon on June 4. Pre-registration and on-site registration are available.

AIDB is located at 205 South St. in Talladega.

Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind is the world's most comprehensive education, rehabilitation and service system serving children and adults who are deaf, blind and multi-disabled.

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services is the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.